



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 16, 2002

S. 356

Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Commission Act

As ordered reported by House Committee on Resources on July 10, 2002

S. 356 would establish the National Commission on the Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase, consisting of 20 members, including a representative from each of the 14 states that comprise the former Louisiana Territory. The central office of the commission would be in Washington, D.C., with additional offices in New Orleans and St. Louis. The commission would plan and develop activities to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase in December 2003. For this purpose, the bill would authorize the commission to accept and spend private donations. S. 356 would direct the General Accounting Office to perform an annual audit of the commission's financial transactions. The act would authorize the appropriation of \$750,000 over the 2002-2004 period to carry out its provisions.

CBO estimates that the commission would need to spend about \$1.2 million over the 2003-2004 period to fulfill the requirements of the legislation—in particular, to set up and staff the three offices and prepare a report of its recommendations by December 2002. Because S. 356 would allow the commission to accept and spend contributed funds, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply to the act. CBO estimates that any revenues from contributions and subsequent direct spending would be less than \$500,000 annually and would offset each other.

S. 356 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

On August 17, 2001, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 356, the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Commission Act, as passed by the Senate on August 3, 2001. The two versions of S. 356 are identical. Differences in the cost reflect a change in the estimate of when the legislation will be enacted.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.